

BACKYARD CHICKENS/DUCKS

The City of Federal Way recognizes the importance of residents providing self-sufficient, sustainable, and organic food options for their families. In order to increase these options, the city now allows residents to keep a limited number of chickens and ducks in residential zones. This document provides information regarding the zoning regulations that apply to keeping chickens and ducks. Please refer to *Federal Way Revised Code* Chapter 19.260 for code requirements in their entirety.

HOW MANY CHICKENS AND/OR DUCKS MAY I KEEP?

Residential lots less than 35,000 square feet (0.8 acre) may keep any combination of four chickens and/or ducks. For those lots 35,000 square feet and larger, up to 20 chickens and/or ducks may be kept. To find out the size of your lot, visit the King County Assessor website: www.kingcounty.gov/assessor.

ARE ROOSTERS ALLOWED?

Roosters are not permitted within the city except for typical farming uses in Suburban Estate (SE) zones.

DO I NEED A PERMIT OR LICENSE?

No permits or licenses from the city are required to own chickens or ducks. Coops exceeding 200 square feet require a building permit.

WHAT ARE THE COOP REQUIREMENTS?

A suitable pen, structure, or enclosure to house the animals shall be provided and maintained in a clean condition at all times. Coops must be setback at least 10 feet from side and rear property lines. Coops are not allowed in areas extending from the primary dwelling unit to the front property line.

WHAT ARE SOME BEST PRACTICES I SHOULD KEEP IN MIND?

- Coops should be large enough to provide between 3-6 square feet of indoor shelter and 3-6 square feet of outdoor shelter per chicken/duck. *Example:* a coop providing the maximum amount of space for four chickens/ducks would measure 48 square feet.
- Indoor shelter should be kept draft free and dim. The floor of the indoor shelters should be covered with a layer of wood shavings, hay, or straw.
- Outdoor shelter should be completely enclosed using posts and fencing material such as ½-inch square mesh hardware cloth. Traditional chicken wire does not protect from outside pests and vermin. A dry, partially shaded, and wind-blocked outdoor shelter space is ideal.
- It's important to be a good neighbor and regularly clean out the coop. Routine cleaning and maintenance will reduce odors affecting adjacent property owners.
- Prior to purchasing your chicks, verify they are hens and not roosters. Pre-sexed chicks typically have a 95 percent accuracy rate.